



# **IDRC Alumni Newsletter**

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## ***...from the Board***

It is now eight months since we took a decision to create IDRC ALUMNI. It seems timely to report on progress. At the moment our organizational structure is simple, and the only feedback we have received from the members is, “keep it simple.”

We now have 154 members located across Canada and around the world. We are receiving enquiries about the establishment of regional groups of IDRC Alumni, and we welcome such initiatives. Contact us in Ottawa and we will share with you what others are planning.

We are aiming to produce three newsletters yearly, and the format is fluid, depending on your reactions. As with the organizational structure, the Newsletter will adjust as we try new features and get your feedback. Above all, we need your reactions, particularly where you see us moving in directions that leave you cold.

In keeping with our belief that we all want and enjoy updates on each other, we are trying a new “Update On Members” section. Entries will be short, only two to four lines, and report on new events in members’ lives (promotions, moves, travel, anniversaries). We have inserted some sample items in this issue and hope you will add to them.

If you want to write to us, send an email or note and we will include it in a Letters section in a future issue.

In conjunction with the October meeting we are planning an international development seminar which will, for those interested, be held as a separate event, in the afternoon of the day of the Reception and Meeting.

(**Jim Pfeifer**, Chairman, **Gerry Bourrier**, Treasurer, **Mary Blackwell**, Secretary, **Claude Paul Boivin**, Director Programs and Activities, **Alison Craig**, Director Memberships, **Angie Anton** and **Jean-Marc Fleury**, IDRC representatives.)

Next  
**Annual Reception  
&  
Meeting**  
  
At  
**IDRC Conference  
Facility  
14<sup>th</sup> floor  
250 Albert Street**  
  
**October 24, 2003  
5:00 p.m.**

***Take a Break!!***

The Tulip Festival has been held, Queen Victoria’s Birthday celebrated, the Marathon run, and the tourist boats have made their appearance on the Rideau Canal. Now that warmer weather has arrived in Ottawa, it is time to enjoy the great outdoors, banishing all thoughts of our miserably cold and snowy winter. *Let’s get walking!*

What can walking do for you? For a start, it is one of the most inexpensive ways to increase your energy level and boost your stamina. You can go where you want, how you want, and when you want. Walking can also help you maintain your sanity, providing a welcome break from the stresses that seem to be more and more prevalent in our lives. Lastly, as you use muscles you forgot you had, lose a few unwelcome pounds, and improve your silhouette, that new image in the mirror will do wonders for your self-esteem.

A number of people have expressed an interest in participating in the proposed “walking group,” and we are looking for more. If you wish to join us, please contact either Mary ([blackme@cyberus.ca](mailto:blackme@cyberus.ca)) or Alison ([alisoncraig@cyberus.ca](mailto:alisoncraig@cyberus.ca)).

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## *We Get Letters....*

What a nice way to keep contacts with former colleagues and friends.

*Rachel Des Rosiers*

It was wonderful to see the faces of old friends and colleagues. A nice way to renew contact.

*Bob Huggan*

... most impressive and very professional – continuing the IDRC tradition! It was good to catch up with the news.

*Alan Meltzer*

I very much enjoyed reading the first issue of the newsletter. As I began reading it I thought: “wouldn’t it be nice to read about where people have landed since leaving IDRC”? And there it was later in the newsletter. I look forward to reading about other IDRC alumni members in future issues.

*Alain Audet*

... our congratulations for pulling off the first newsletter and the compilation of an impressive alumni list! With such talent and dedication, how can we not succeed.

*The Bhatia Family*

... I read with mucho gusto our first newsletter. I read it in English first, and enjoyed it, and then read it in French, expecting, well, but no, it’s an even better read. Congratulations to Michèle.

*Hubert LeBlanc*



*Nancy Hutchinson*

## ***JUST IN***

On February 28, 2003, Nancy Hutchinson retired from IDRC after 29 years service. Nancy joined the Centre in 1974 working in various positions in the Secretariat for 18 years, then moving on to the Program Service Unit, Grant Administration, and the Bellanet Group. Nancy's experience and knowledge of IDRC policies and procedures, particularly grant documentation and administration, made her a most valuable resource for other organizations and projects embarking on similar missions. In 1992 she traveled to Costa Rica with the Centre's "Summer Institute."

In 1994 Nancy was seconded to work as the Executive Assistant to the Director of the Governance Project in South Africa funded by IDRC and CIDA, and was fortunate to be invited to attend Nelson Mandela's inauguration. In 1997 Nancy was seconded to work with the Essential Health Intervention Program in Tanzania. In 1998 Nancy was also involved in setting up guidelines and grant procedures for a new international organization, the International Network for Bamboo and Rattan (INBAR) located in Beijing. The next year saw Nancy in New Delhi working with and training staff working on a Micronutrient Project on grant communications and administration.

Nancy's energy and enthusiasm were rewarded in 1999 when, after 12 years part-time evening study, she received her BA from the University of Ottawa majoring in psychology. She was always the first to volunteer for fundraising and other extra curricular activities at the Centre, and her history at the Centre allowed her to play an important role in the Centre's "corporate memory division." As a retiree she plans to spend time with her son Shane and his wife Shannon, both Air Canada employees in Vancouver, as well as her son Vance, who is completing his PhD in New Orleans, and his wife Sheila, a Government employee in Whitehorse, and her 8-year-old twin granddaughters, who are patiently waiting for Daddy to graduate and come home to stay. Nancy and her husband Steven have purchased a waterfront property in Yarmouth and have taken up residence in Nova Scotia. Nancy also becomes the Alumni's first member in the Maritime Region.

We welcome Nancy as a member of the Alumni and look forward to seeing her at the reception in October.

# GOLF

## ANYONE????

Finally, golf season has arrived!! For several years IDRC employees have enjoyed an annual golf tournament and last year a few alumni joined the group for a round of golf, dinner, many laughs, and a very enjoyable day. An invitation has been issued to all alumni members to play in the 2003 tournament.

WHEN: Wednesday, August 27  
WHERE: Meadows Golf and Country Club  
4335 Hawthorne Road  
Ottawa--822-2582  
TIME: Tee off times starting at 11:00 a.m.  
FORMAT: Scramble (best ball)  
COST \$67.00 –(green fees, electric cart and dinner)

This is not a serious day. You do not have to be a 'scratch' golfer, in fact, it is probably better if you are not. However, you do have to be prepared to relax and have fun. Anyone interested in registering or obtaining further information regarding the tournament should contact Linda MacWillie at IDRC (236-6163 ext 2134) or by email [lmacwillie@idrc.ca](mailto:lmacwillie@idrc.ca).



**IN  
MEMORIAM  
1970 -  
2003**

**We note, with sadness, the passing of our colleagues over the past 33 years.**

**Asfar, Vivian  
Audet, Madeleine  
Ault, Joan  
Bazinet, Suzanne  
Bene, John  
Bennett, Hanley  
Blakely, Bob  
Bollinger, Lisa  
Brandreth, Mike  
Brown, Hazel  
Carroll, Margaret  
Chatelaine, Lucie  
Chouinard, Amy  
Davidson, Ron  
Debanne, Lydia  
De Chantal, Jean  
De Villiers, Arnold  
Dupont, Jacques  
Gall, Bill  
Ghaly, Assad  
Gines, Chusa  
Gordon, King  
Grenier, Robert  
Hetrick, Claire**

**Kovesi, Margaret  
Leal, Maria  
Leatherdale, Don  
Leckie, Jennifer  
Lessard, Gilles  
Monge, Fernando  
Mowat, Susanne  
Mukerjee, Sitoo  
Nadon, Richard  
Oswitch, Pauline  
Plumptre, Wynne  
Price, Tony  
Rawlings, Richard  
Ruddy, Brenda  
St. Onge, Evelyn  
Solomon, Starr  
Steckle, Jean  
Touhey, Marilyn  
Tranca, Julie  
Wheaton, Ethel  
Yaciuk, Gordon  
Zamarripa, Suzanne**

# ***WHERE ARE THEY NOW?***



***Bruce Scott***

Bruce's career has been shaped and influenced by IDRC. He started as a summer student in 1974 attached to the Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Sciences Division under the supervision of Doug Daniels. After graduation from Carleton University with a Masters in International Development he joined IDRC full-time in 1976 with most of his time spent working on CGIAR-related activities including the establishment of ICARDA and ICRAF.

In 1978 Bruce was posted to the IDRC regional Office in Nairobi, never to return! Soon after his arrival, the Regional Office closed. However, AFNS decided to retain a presence in East Africa and Bruce remained working in Nairobi from an office in the newly established ICRAF. In 1980, IDRC reopened a Regional Office in Nairobi for Eastern and Southern Africa and Bruce was appointed Regional Director (with a total staff of one!) The Office grew rapidly in the 1980's, both in terms of project commitments and staff. When Bruce relocated from Nairobi in 1985 the Regional Office had grown to 17 professional staff with annual program commitments around C\$10M.

In January 1986, Bruce was appointed Regional Director for West and Central Africa in Dakar, Senegal. At the same time, another major event took place. Bruce and Julie Debaly were married at their farm in West Brome, Quebec, a farming community of 200 in the Eastern Townships. Many IDRC friends and colleagues were in attendance, representing five continents. Attendance at the wedding ceremony was close to the total population of West Brome. Many IDRC staff met Julie in Nairobi with Bruce in the early 1980's but many other IDRC staff got to know Julie when she left Kenya in 1983 and migrated to Ottawa for further studies in the travel industry. She ended up working at Executive Travel at 60 Queen Street (thank you Angie!!). The travel agency, IDRC and IDRC Nairobi link were instrumental in keeping the courtship flourishing between 1983 and 1986. Julie joined Bruce in Dakar and returned to work with Ethiopian Airlines for whom she had previously worked for seven years in Kenya.

Bruce and Julie returned to Nairobi in 1988. Bruce had negotiated a four-year leave of absence from IDRC to join ICRAF. He worked at ICRAF for 11 years, initially establishing ICRAF's research program in Africa and then as Deputy Director General. Bruce left

ICRAF in 1999 and moved across town to join the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI). He is currently the Director of Partnerships and Communications working with Carols Sere, the new Director General of ILRI, ex-IDRC Regional Director for Latin America..

When Bruce and Julie returned to Nairobi, Julie continued with her profession along with raising a family. Michael is now 15 and attending boarding school in South Africa. He is an avid sportsman excelling in cricket, field hockey (notice!) and golf. It helps when you can play 12 months a year. Tamara is 12 and in her last year of prep school in Nairobi. She excels in everything including wrapping her Daddy around her little finger. Julie is now Director of Marketing for the largest travel agency in East Africa, Bunson Travel and Tours. Bunson happens to be the IDRC travel agency in Nairobi. If you ever plan a trip or safari to East Africa, you know whom to contact.

The Scott family makes a point of visiting Canada every year and has been able to maintain contact with many former colleagues and friends. Their welcome mat is always out in Nairobi.



*Bruce, Julie, Michael and Tamara*

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**KARIBU  
SANA**







## **Bev Chataway**

The name, Bev Chataway will resonate among many former IDRC employees, not just those who spent their careers at the Centre's headquarters in Ottawa but also those who represented IDRC in the Regional Offices. Bev was *the* person to whom many turned to track down information, perhaps a research reference or article, however mundane or obscure.

Bev began her life with IDRC in October 1982, as a Reference Librarian in the Centre Library, acting as a resource person for staff within AFNS, OPE, IS and the President's Office. She also undertook the coordination of the move of the Library from 60 Queen to 250 Albert – no mean feat as anyone connected with this move can readily testify. At the time of her departure from the Centre in August 1996, Bev held the position of Head, Research and Management Information Service.

While at the Centre, Bev did not limit her activities to her responsibilities in the Library. She also served on a number of Centre-wide committees and working groups, such as Classification and the Better Way Project, and, working with Human Resources, was instrumental in establishing the self-funded leave program for IDRC. Among her other distinctions, she was one of the first two employees who won a competition to participate in IDRC's Summer Institute, travelling to Costa Rica.

In 1996, Bev left the Centre to take up the challenge of a new position at the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC), undertaking marketing and promotional activities with the Corporation's Canadian Housing Information Centre. At the time of her retirement in May 2002, Bev held the position of Manager, Client Services in CMHC's Marketing and Communications Division, responsible for their 1-800 number, global distribution of publications, new product development, copyright and CMHC's branding initiatives.

Bev has not been idle since retirement. In January 2003 she traveled to CIMMYT in Mexico to update their library's strategic plan, which she had developed in 2001 at the suggestion of Ed Brandon, another former IDRC colleague. Currently, she spends two mornings a week at the reference desk of the National Library, and finds time to pursue various fitness, cultural and travel interests.

In 1976 Bev and her husband, Rick, purchased an old farm house standing on two acres of land in Nova Scotia, which they have renovated over the years. They now spend half the year (April to October) at Cherry Hill, where they will be celebrating their 25<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary this month.

We all look forward to seeing Bev again at the upcoming reunion in October.

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## *Update On Members*

*Gerry Bourrier* (1971-1996) is semi-retired and lives in Ottawa with his wife Aline. He does consulting work on a part time basis and is Principal of Bourrier International Consultants Inc.

*Mary (Baker) Blackwell* (1970-1984) lives in rural Ottawa and is President of Lifestyle Transition Management, working with seniors downsizing and individuals posted outside Canada.

*Claude Paul Boivin* (1973-1989) after 10 years as Executive Director of the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association, was appointed in 2001 President of the Association of Consulting Engineers of Canada, and lives in Ottawa.

*Alison Craig* (1970-1990) embraced retirement in May 2002 after nearly 12 years with the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada, and thoroughly enjoys life in Ottawa.

*Jim Pfeifer* (1970-1982) is Chairman of Marks Pfeifer Associates and lives in Ottawa

*Michèle Wilson* (1983-1995) lives in Ottawa and is semi-retired. She works part-time as a freelance translator (English-French).

*Reg MacIntyre* (1972-1990) lives in Ottawa and continues to work as an editorial consultant with the World Bank, and other groups. He also plays the fiddle with an Ottawa group, The Mostly Bows, entertaining at senior care homes.

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*Kerry Broadbent*

## ON THE ROAD TO COMPOSTELA

Since leaving the Centre, Kieran ‘Kerry’ Broadbent has continued to live a varied life, dividing his time between being a good grandfather to three grandchildren and helping his wife Peggy manage the farm and its annual crop of lambs, continuing his interest in development with consultancies in a number of countries, and local volunteering. He has been on the Board of a local non-profit organization concerned with developmental services and social housing for the past ten years, five of which he served as its president. He has been active too in local municipal affairs and is presently involved in the Rural Advisory Committee and in creating a river walk along the Mississippi River as part of the downtown renewal of Almonte.

Keeping fit and active in semiretirement has revolved around swimming and the development of a keen interest in long distance walking. In 2001 he set off to walk the **Camino de Santiago de Compostela**. He returned to Spain last September with his wife, who hitherto had been plagued with arthritis in her knees, and the previous winter had broken her femur. Planning to test herself, they set out from Leon since between there and Astorga the trail is not particularly challenging. In case it proved too difficult it would be possible to easily get off at several points en route. Across the Montes de Leon and up beyond the pass of O Cebreiro and into the hills of Galicia, some 350 km and thirteen days later she walked into Santiago a fit woman. This year they are planning to walk across Switzerland, either from Lake Constance to Lake Geneva or to follow GR 65 (Chemin de St Jacques de Compostelle) from Le Puy en Verlay to the Pyrennes. They both feel that focused walking is a holistic exercise – body, mind and spirit. The Camino, of course, has long had a mystical drawing power that cannot be explained in the normal sense of a recreational activity. For those who choose to complete it, however, it provides a simple but great reward – the freedom to be oneself, an opportunity for renewal, the friendship of strangers, and a willingness to accept what is presented each day.

Anyone interested in reading Kerry’s account of his pilgrimage should be able to obtain a copy through interlibrary loan from Almonte public library : *Ultreya Santiago. A Journey of my Lifetime*. by Kieran Broadbent, November 2001. Those interested themselves in the Camino or in any aspects of long distance walking can contact Kerry at any time at: [kpbroad@sympatico.ca](mailto:kpbroad@sympatico.ca).





*Nihal Kappagoda*

## **In Pursuit of Gross National Happiness**

Bhutan is a landlocked country with an area of 46,500 square kilometres. It is surrounded by India except in the northwest and north where it is bordered by China (Tibet). It is made up of three ecological regions - the Himalayas in the north, the hills and valleys of the centre and the warmer plains and the foothills in the south. The highest mountain Gangkhar Puensum is 7541 metres above sea level.

The country is unique and stands apart from other South Asian countries. It has “one foot in the past and the other in the future”<sup>1</sup>. The leaders under the guidance of the monarch Jigme Singye Wangchuck - the fourth king of the current dynasty - recognize the need for modern technology but at the same time wish to retain their pristine environment and culture. This desire to preserve what is best is captured on the board at the entrance to the Jigme Dorji National Park named after the present King’s father which reads “leave nothing but footprints, carry away nothing but memories.”

The King expounded a distinctly Bhutanese concept of development, the pursuit of Gross National Happiness (GNH), in the late 1980s. To maximize happiness instead of the growth in Gross National Product, the individual is placed at the centre of development, recognizing that there are material, spiritual and emotional needs that must be satisfied. The concept of GNH goes beyond the Human Development Index that the United Nations developed as a more comprehensive measure that includes social indicators. Higher levels of GNH are to be achieved by improvements in the standard of living, quality of life and levels of welfare; an awareness of the cultural heritage that is important for satisfying the spiritual and cultural needs of the people; ensuring that the benefits of development are shared equitably among different income groups and regions promoting social harmony and unity; developing institutions and human resources to manage a complex development process; and ensuring that the biological productivity and natural environment are protected. Unfortunately GNH does not lend itself to quantification to enable a comparison of the levels of development in different time periods and between countries. Qualitative assessments have to suffice.

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<sup>1</sup> Bhutan, Stan Armington, Lonely Planet Publications, June 2002.



*Subadra Kappagoda & Friends*

The country is known as Bhutan to the outside world but has been called Druk Yul, the Land of the Thunder Dragon, by the Bhutanese since the 13<sup>th</sup> century. The original people are called the Drukpas. The Sharchops in the east and Ngalop in the west make up the Drukpas. The remainder are of Nepalese descent who settled in the south from the late 19<sup>th</sup> century and make up about one-third of the population. Most people speak English, which is the medium of instruction in the schools, and are very friendly. The traditional clothes-the gho for the men and kira for the women- are very colourful.

Surrounded by large and powerful neighbours, Bhutan has taken a cautious stance vis-à-vis these countries that wish to exercise hegemony over smaller ones. Its economic dependence on India is unavoidable and its ability to maintain a degree of political independence is no mean achievement for which the leaders of Bhutan should be commended. The country's largest export is hydropower - most of which is purchased by India - generated from the abundance of water that it possesses. Future development programs are concentrating on power development that will make this economic dependence even larger. Very little convertible foreign exchange is earned by exports to other countries.

The official religion is Drukpa Kagyu, a school of Mahayana Buddhism that is similar to the one practised in Tibet. All Drukpa are Buddhists while those of Nepali origin are Hindus. Monks play a significant role in the country. The head of the "monk body," the Je Khenpo, is on par with the King in the governance structure of Bhutan. Most monasteries are of the traditional architecture and many are located on mountains that are almost inaccessible. The most famous is the Taktsang Monastery (Tiger's Nest) where Guru Rimpoche, who introduced Buddhism to the country, landed astride a flying tiger!

My wife and I spent six weeks in Thimpu, the capital of Bhutan in early 2003 on an assignment for the Royal Government of Bhutan. The nearest flat area large enough for an airport is in the next valley in Paro, which is a ninety minute drive. Paro can be reached by air only on Druk Air, the national carrier, from Bangkok, Delhi, Kathmandu, Calcutta or Dacca. We saw the awesome environment and beautiful scenery that is common in Bhutan as we arrived in Paro. The new terminal building with its attractive traditional architecture against the background of the mountains was spectacular. The blue skies of Bhutan are the deepest blue that we have seen.



The traditional architecture is maintained in many buildings including new ones. The administration centres in each of the twenty provinces were built in this style. They are called Dzongs and each houses a monastery in addition to government offices. The one in Thimpu has chambers and offices for the King as well. One sees the new SAARC Centre that was built recently across the river from the Thimpu Dzong. The two buildings, which are on either side of the Thimpu River, are beautiful to look at and provide good examples of the traditional architecture

Thimpu is about 2300 metres above sea level. This elevation leaves many foreigners breathless after exertion that is possible at home. Thimpu is unique for a capital city in Asia as it has no beggars. This is made up for by the large number of well fed stray dogs. They were a nuisance at night due to their incessant barking. After almost thirty years we got used to paying cash for every purchase including the hotel bill. At the end of our stay in Bhutan our credit card balances had reduced to zero. The absence of adequate heating in the hotel room took me back to my student days in England in the early sixties when long underwear was a necessary part of my dress. Hats off to the Bhutanese men whose traditional dress leave them exposed below the knees!

Apart from a challenging institutional environment for a consultancy in debt management, this was an experience I would not have missed. I have agreed to go back sometime in the next 12 months

### **CREDITS**

The Board members thank **Michèle Wilson** for translating the Newsletter, and **Reg MacIntyre** for providing editorial assistance.